

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 225885 TOSEC 270009

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 13959 SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE

SEPT 13, 1976 FROM MANILA

QUOTE S E C R E T MANILA 13959

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SULLIVAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
ROMULO

REF: STATE 225445

1. THERE ARE MANY FACTORS WHICH SUPPORT YOUR CONCLUSION
THAT MARCOS PREFERS TO DELAY MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS
UNTIL NEXT YEAR. SUCH A DELAY COULD BE INSPIRED NOT ONLY
BY U.S. ELECTIONS, BUT ALSO BY A NUMBER OF OTHER FOREIGN
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. AMONG THESE ARE UNCERTAINTIES
ABOUT CHINESE POLICY AFTER MAO'S DEATH, THE AMBIVALENCE
OF VIETNAMESE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE
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CONTINUING PHILIPPINE DESIRE TO OBTAIN THIRD WORLD

CREDENTIALS.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOP SEEMS TO BE PREPARING SERIOUSLY FOR YOUR MEETING WITH ROMULO. A TEAM OF MILITARY OFFICERS IS BEING READIED TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO BACK UP THE TALKS AND THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS THAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ENRILE MAY JOIN. THEREFORE, I THINK IT HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT WE TREAT THESE TALKS AS IF WE EXPECT THEM TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND TO LEAD TO POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, I AM PLEASED THAT YOU CONTINUE PREPARED TO MEET WITH ROMULO.

3. YOUR NEED FOR DELAY IN THE ROMULO MEETING WILL, I AM SURE, BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOP. UNFORTUNATELY, ROMULO IS ALREADY IN JAPAN ENROUTE TO NEW YORK, AND I CAN NOT RPT NOT GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM DIRECTLY ABOUT THE DELAY. SINCE ROMUALDEZ IS ALREADY IN WASHINGTON, THE BEST WAY TO WORK OUT A NEW SCHEDULE IS FOR ART HUMMEL TO DISCUSS IT DIRECTLY WITH ROMUALDEZ. WE, IN THE MEANTIME, WILL PASS WORD INFORMALLY TO MEMBERS OF MILITARY TEAM ALERTING THEM TO DELAY AND INDICATING THAT WE EXPECT HAVE NEW DATE FOR THEM SOONEST.

4. SINCE REVISION IN SCHEDULES WILL AFFECT QUITE A FEW TRAVEL PLANS OTHER THAN THOSE OF ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ, I HOPE WE CAN HAVE A NEW DATE SOONEST AND ADEQUATELY IN ADVANCE TO PERMIT THIS REVISION TO MOVE SMOOTHLY. I WILL ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS ON MY OWN TRAVEL.

SULLIVAN UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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